

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for inventory and sales reconciliation for multiple scheduled events comprising:

an interface to an Internet portal in communication with a database for entering a collection of inventory items in the database for a selected one of the multiple scheduled events, the selected event occurring at a remote location;

a portable terminal for transport with the collection of inventory items to the remote location for collecting sales transactions information relating to sales of one or more of the inventory items to consumers; and

a report server for receiving information from the database and the portable terminal for reconciliation of the inventory items and sales transaction information after the selected event.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein the portable terminal collects consumer information during the sales transactions, the system further comprising:

a payment server for receiving the consumer information from the portable terminal for completing the sales transactions after the selected event, the payment server in communication with the report server; and

the report and payment servers using the inventory, and sales transactions information for completing business transactions with one or more owners of the inventory items.

3. The system of claim 2 wherein the selected event occurring at a remote location comprises a scheduled airline flight.

4. The system of claim 3 wherein the portable terminal comprises a personal digital assistant (PDA).

5. The system of claim 4 wherein the interface comprises a personal computer including a PDA cradle for downloading data to and uploading data from the PDA by synchronizing the PDA to the portal.

6. The system of claim 2 wherein the consumer information comprises credit card information, and the payment server is operative to route the card information to a financial network for transaction authorization and settlement.
7. The system of claim 6 wherein the payment server receives transaction settlement information from the financial network and communicates said settlement information to the database.
8. A system for in-flight sales transactions and inventory control comprising:
 - a back-office subsystem including at least one server and a database for storing a plurality of flight profiles and completed flight information,
 - an administrative user interface in communication with the back-office subsystem for inputting and maintaining the profiles;
 - an end-user interface in communication with the back-office subsystem for inputting the completed flight information; and
 - an in-flight terminal device for completing sales transactions and tracking onboard inventory items.
9. The system of claim 8 wherein the at least one server comprises:
 - an application server in communication with the Internet for providing access to an Internet portal application;
 - a report server in communication with the application server and database for providing completed flight information; and
 - a payment server linking the application and report servers to a financial processing network.
10. The system of claim 8 wherein the in-flight terminal device comprises a personal digital assistant (PDA).
11. The system of claim 10 wherein the end-user interface comprises a personal computer including a PDA cradle for downloading data to and uploading data from the PDA by synchronizing the PDA to the application server.

12. The system of claim 10 wherein the PDA comprises:
 - a touch sensitive interface screen;
 - a printer for printing records of sales transactions; and
 - a magnetic card strip reader for inputting card information into the PDA.
13. The system of claim 8 wherein a flight profile comprises flight information for a predefined and scheduled airline flight, and a default list of items to be sold onboard the flight.
13. The system of claim 10 wherein the completed flight information comprises sales transaction information and inventory information.
14. A method for completing sales transactions on moving vehicles and for tracking sales inventory, the method comprising:
 - linking, at the vehicle origination location, a portable device to a terminal having an operating system for pre-sale configuration;
 - loading, at the vehicle origination location, base criteria from the terminal into the portable device;
 - completing, onboard the vehicle, sales transactions and inventory tracking with the portable device;
 - linking, at the vehicle destination location, the portable device to a terminal having an operating system for post-sale synchronization;
 - loading, at the vehicle destination location, sales transaction data from the portable device into the terminal; and
 - routing sales transaction data from the terminal to a database for creation of sales and inventory reports.
15. The method of claim 14 wherein the completing step further comprises:
 - inputting sales transaction data into the portable device via a touchscreen display;
 - calculating the total cost of the sales transaction;
 - accepting payment for the sales transaction; and
 - updating the count of inventory items.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the accepting step further comprises:
swiping a card;
storing the swiped card information; and
printing a receipt for the sales transaction.
17. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of capturing an electronic signature of the cardholder via the touchscreen display.
18. The method of claim 16 further comprising the steps of:
transmitting the stored swiped card information to a financial processing network;
receiving card authorization and settlement information from the financial processing network relative to the swiped card information; and
routing the authorization and settlement information to the database.
19. The method of claim 14 wherein the method further comprises the steps of:
inventorying, at the vehicle destination location, the remaining sales inventory; and
entering, at the vehicle destination location, the remaining sales inventory information into the terminal.
20. The method of claim 14 wherein the moving vehicle comprises a passenger aircraft.